

In the Claims:

1. (original) A method for the transmission of image data from a sender to a recipient, comprising the steps of

 inserting at the location of the sender into a data transmission including an image format portion data identifying the address of the intended recipient of the image-format portion of the transmission and message tracking data;

 transmitting the data transmission over a transmission system from the sender's location to an intermediate point of presence facility; and

 receiving the data transmission by the point of presence facility and re-transmitting the data comprising the image portion to the identified address of the recipient.

2. (amended) ~~The method of claim 1 further including the step of inserting into the data transmission at the location of the sender~~ wherein the message tracking data inserted comprises at least one of accounting, audit and documentation data.

3. The method of claim 2 further including the step of processing the message tracking data by the point of presence facility.

4. The method of claim 3 including the further step of stripping the message tracking data from the data transmission at the point of presence facility before retransmission.

5. The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:
 inserting at the location of the sender into the data transmission data identifying an address of the sender; and

sending a confirmation message to the sender's address by the point of presence facility after re-transmitting the data comprising the image portion to the recipient's identified address.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the address of the recipient is an e-mail address and the step of re-transmitting the data includes forwarding the data in the form of an e-mail attachment to the recipient's e-mail address.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein the address of the recipient is an e-mail address and the step of re-transmitting the data includes forwarding the data in the form of an e-mail attachment to the recipient's e-mail address.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the address of the sender is an e-mail address and the step of sending a confirmation message includes forwarding an e-mail message to the sender's e-mail address.

9. The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:
generating a confirmation message by the point of presence facility after re-transmitting the data comprising the image portion to the recipient's identified address; and
allowing the sender access to the confirmation message.

10. A method for the transmission of image data from a sender to a recipient, comprising the steps of:

inserting at the location of the sender into a data transmission including a portion intended to be received by the recipient data identifying the address of the intended recipient of the portion and message tracking data;

transmitting the data transmission from the sender's location to an intermediate point of presence facility; and

receiving the data transmission by the point of presence facility, converting the portion to a facsimile-format image, and re-transmitting the intended portion to the identified address of the recipient.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the identified address of the recipient is a telephone number associated with a facsimile reception apparatus and said re-transmission includes a portion over a telephone line linked to the facsimile reception apparatus.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein the transmission from the sender to the point of presence facility is in the form of an e-mail transmission.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of transmitting the data transmission over a telephone system from the sender's location to an intermediate point of presence facility include converting the image data to facsimile format and transmitting the image data in the facsimile format.

14. (new) The method of claim 10 wherein the message tracking data inserted comprises at least one of accounting, audit and documentation data.